

December 3d.

DR. MORTON, President, in the Chair.

A communication was read from the Minister of Public Works of France, dated Paris, Sept. 5th, 1850, accompanying a number of Vols. of the "Journal des Mines," and of the "Annales des Mines," which had been deficient in the series of that Work in the Library of the Academy;—and also asking in return, certain numbers of the Journal and Proceedings of this Institution.

A letter was read from Professor Nillson of Sweden, dated Lund, Sept. 30th, 1850, returning acknowledgments for his election as a Correspondent of the Academy, and stating his intention to present a copy of his work on the Fauna of Scandinavian Vertebrata; and also offering to procure for the Academy, Zoological specimens of that country, if desirable. Referred to the Zoological Committee.

Dr. Leidy read a paper entitled "New genera of Vermes," which, being intended for publication in the Proceedings, was referred to Drs. Zantinger, B. H. Coates and Hallowell.

December 10th.

Vice-President BRIDGES, in the Chair.

Dr. Leidy exhibited several molar teeth and fragments of maxillæ of a fossil Rhinoceros, from Missouri territory, received from the Smithsonian Institution through Prof. Baird, which indicate a species little more than half the size of the recent *R. indicus*. He characterized it under the name of *R. occidentalis*.

Dr. Leidy also exhibited drawings, and offered the following remarks on the netting organs of the Hydra:—

There are three different forms of these organs. The first are of comparatively large size, and are pyriform in shape, measuring about 1-1700ths in. in length, by 1-2125ths in. in breadth. They are found principally upon the arms, and anterior two thirds of the surface of the body, although they are found upon the posterior third also, but few in number. Colorless and transparent, they contain within them an elongated pyramidal body about 1-3400ths in. in length, the apex of which is in contact with, or slightly protrudes from, the projecting extremity of the netting cell; the base is divided into four lobes and rests upon a prolate spheroid body which has its other extremity applied to the middle of the concavity of a cup-shaped mass of faintly yellowish matter occupying the inferior third or bas-fond of the receptacle. The pyramidal body is described by Corda* as being a calcareous dart capable of protrusion from the cell, but incorrectly, for when it is forced from its receptacle, it divides into four spine-like processes, which project outward nearly at right angles to the extruded mass. The intervals unoccupied, and the bodies just described within the cell are filled

*Nov. Act. Phys. Med. 1836, p. 301.